

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NEA-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4052

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XDGS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION

VISIT TO US

1. AT LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND MARCH 22, LEADING SPD BUNDESTAG MEMBER WISCHNEWSKI TOLD US THAT AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO SUGGEST TO THE USG THAT A DELEGATION OF THE ORGANIZATION VISIT THE US SOMETIME THIS SUMMER TO DISCUSS GREEK DEVELOPMENTS. WISCHNEWSKI SAID IT WAS PRESENTLY ENVISAGED THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD BE MADE UP OF FIVE DELEGATES, ALL FROM NATO COUNTRIES AND NONE OF THEM IN ANY SENSE CRITICAL OF THE US OR THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

2. WISCHNEWSKI STRESSED THAT THE GROUP HAD NO REPEAT NO INTEREST IN PUBLICIZING THE VISIT OR ITS PURPOSE: IN FACT, THE SPD LEADERSHIP HAD AGREED TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A VISIT TO THE US ONLY ON CONDITION THAT THERE WAS NO PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE VISIT. IF WORD OF THE VISIT LEAKED, IT WAS PROPOSED TO STATE THAT THE GROUP WAS SIMPLY ON A GENERAL STUDY TOUR. WISCHNEWSKI SAID THE GERMAN MEMBER OF THE GROUP WOULD BE SPD BUNDESTAG MEMBER KURT MATTICK. IT WAS NOT YET KNOWN WHO THE OTHER MEMBERS WOULD BE.

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3. WISCHNEWSKI SAID HE WISHED TO UNDERSCORE THE GROUP' S CONCERN THAT THE VISIT IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED BY THE US AS CRITICAL OF THE US POLICY TOWARD GREECE. HE SAID PRESSURE FOR THE VISIT HAD COME FROM THE DUTCH, SCANDINAVIANS AND SOME GREEK EXILE ORGANIZATIONS: THE SPD HAD AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH THE IDEA IN ORDER TO EXERT SOME CONTROL OVER THE PREPARATIONS. IN FACT, WISCHNEWSKI POINTED OUT, THE VISIT WAS BEING PREPARED BY THE SPD (DINGELS, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION) AND THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY AND NOT BY THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL' S SECRETARIAT AS WOULD NORMALLY BE THE CASE.

4. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND SAID WE APPRECIATED WISCHNEWSKI' S INFORMING US OF THE PROPOSED TRIP AND ASKED THAT WE BE KEPT APPRAISED OF FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY DEVELOPED. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE VISIT WOULD REQUIRE VERY CAREFUL HANDLING, OF COURSE, FOR THERE WOULD BE A VERY CAREFUL REACTION IF THE VISIT WERE TO BE MADE WITH GREAT PUBLICITY AND WITH STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF GREECE OR US- GREEK TIES. WISCHNEWSKI SAID THE GROUP WOULD AVOID THS AT ALL COSTS, OR THE SPD REPRESENTATION WOULD NOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIT.

5. COMMENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS DEPT MAY HAVE ON THIS TRIP. OUR OWN FEELING IS THAT THE SPD IS ATTEMPTING TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN CONTROLLING THE GROUP' S COMPOSITION AND SCOPE THE ACTIVITY AND THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR US TO BE ABLE TO GIVE WISCHNEWSKI OR DINGLES SOME OF OUR THOUGHTS AT AN EARLY DATE.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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